

EARL BLUMENAUER
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Hood River – White Salmon Interstate Bridge Replacement Project Right of Way (ROW)/Mitigation project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Port of Hood River located at 1000 East Port Marian Drive, Hood River, Oregon 97031. The funding would be used by the Port of Hood River to complete the NEPA process by initiating ROW acquisition and tribal mitigation commitments, positioning construction for the replacement bridge to begin in 2025.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the current bridge is a critical piece of the regional and bi-state transportation system, impacting two east-west National Highway System Corridors (SR 14 in Washington and I-84 in Oregon), 28 communities along the river and approximately 5 million vehicles that cross the bridge annually. The bridge is vital to a growing manufacturing, agriculture and tourism region that contribute to the wealth of both states as well as the nation. When complete the new bridge will improve seismic resiliency, increase freight mobility and provide safe bicycle and pedestrian crossing.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. 133(b).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress